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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 10 through 17 with the following amended paragraph:

This application further incorporates by reference in its entirety the disclosures of the following U.S. Patent applications which are being filed concurrently on the same date herewith, having the following titles and docket numbers U.S. Patent Application Serial Numbers:
08491.7013 - Application Serial No.: 10/014,145 - Surgical Instrument; 08491.7014 - Application Serial No.: 10/012,845 - Surgical Instrument; 08491.7015 - Application Serial No.: 10/008,964 - Surgical Instrument; 08491.7016 - Application Serial No.: 10/013,046 - Surgical Instrument; 08491.7017 - Application Serial No.: 10/011,450 - Surgical Instrument; 08491.7018 - Application Serial No.: 10/008,457 - Surgical Instrument; 08491.7019 - Application Serial No.: 10/008,871 - Surgical Instrument; 08491.0006 - Application Serial No.: 10/023,024 - Flexible Instrument; 08491.0006 - Flexible Instrument; 08491.0007 - Application Serial No.: 10/011,371 - Flexible Instrument; 08491.0008 - Application Serial No.: 10/011,449 - Flexible Instrument; 08491.0010 - Application Serial No.: 10/022,038 - Flexible Instrument; and 08491.0011 - Application Serial No.: 10/012,586 - Flexible Instrument.